

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 36

[CC Docket No. 80-286; FCC 96J-2]

#### Establishment of a Joint Board

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; recommended decision.

**SUMMARY:** On September 27, 1996, the Federal-State Joint Board in CC Docket No. 80-286 adopted a Recommended Decision regarding permanent rules for the separation of the expenses assigned to the other billing and collecting category of the Commission's rules (OB&C) between the state and interstate jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup> In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released May 15, 1995,<sup>2</sup> the Commission had requested that the Joint Board recommend permanent rules that would reflect reasonable principles of cost causation and would not be unnecessarily burdensome to implement and administer. Through its Recommended Decision, the Joint Board intended to assist the Commission in formulating permanent rules for the jurisdictional separation of OB&C expenses that satisfy the Commission's stated goals that the permanent rules reflect principles of cost causation, not be unnecessarily burdensome to implement and administer, be simple to audit, and be certain and predictable in their effect.<sup>3</sup>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jon Reel, (202) 418-0872, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting and Audits Division.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Federal-State Joint

Board recommendation to the Federal Communication Commission, Amendment of Part 36 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board, *Recommended Decision*, FCC 96J-2, CC Docket No. 80-286, adopted and released September 27, 1996. This action was initiated by a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released May 15, 1995 (60 FR 30059). The Commission has made the full text of the Recommended Decision available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Commission's Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20554, and will publish it in the FCC Record. The full text of the Recommended Decision may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, International Transcription Service, 2100 M Street, NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037, telephone number (202) 857-3800.

**Summary of Recommended Action:** The Recommended Decision of the Federal-State Joint Board in CC Docket No. 80-286 concerns the allocation of OB&C expenses between the federal and state jurisdictions. OB&C expenses are the expenses incurred by incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) in preparing and rendering customer bills and in accounting for revenues generated by those bills. Under the recommended permanent rules, OB&C expenses would be allocated equally among local exchange, intrastate toll, and interstate toll service. This allocation would result in allocating two-thirds of OB&C expenses to the state jurisdiction, and one third of OB&C expenses to the interstate jurisdiction. ILECs that do not bill for interexchange carriers will allocate five percent of OB&C expenses to the interstate jurisdiction to cover the cost of billing the federal Subscriber Line Charge. The Joint Board found that, because OB&C expenses are largely joint and common expenses, an allocation procedure based on usage of individual services would not allocate expenses more accurately than a fixed allocation factor. The Joint Board therefore gave great weight to additional considerations such as convenience and predictability, and found that a fixed-factor method of allocation best satisfied those considerations.

2. Recommendation Clauses: For all the reasons discussed in this

Recommended Decision, this Federal State Joint Board recommends, pursuant to Section 410(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 410(c), that the Federal Communications Commission amend Part 36, Subpart D of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR Part 36, Subpart D.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 36

Communications common carriers, Jurisdictional separations procedures, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Telephone, Universal System of Accounts.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-27684 Filed 10-28-96; 8:45 am]

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### 47 CFR Parts 36 and 69

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 96-1078]

#### Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Further Comment on Specific Questions Regarding the Universal Service Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On March 14, 1996, (61 FR 10499) the Commission published in the Federal Register a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the implementation of universal service support pursuant to section 254 in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. A public notice, which was released by the Common Carrier Bureau on July 3, 1996, sought further comment on 72 specific questions regarding the universal service notice of proposed rulemaking. This public notice extended the comment period until August 2, 1996. The purpose of the public notice was to supplement information received in response to the universal service NPRM. **DATES:** The July 3, 1996, public notice extended the comment period until August 2, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 1919 M St., N.W., Room 222, Washington, DC 20554.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Astrid Carlson, Universal Service

<sup>1</sup> Amendment of Part 36 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board, *Recommended Decision*, FCC 96J-2, CC Docket No. 80-286 (rel. Sept. 27, 1996).

<sup>2</sup> Amendment of Part 36 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 10 FCC Rcd 7013 (1995) (*Notice*).

<sup>3</sup> *Notice*, 10 FCC Rcd at 7015.